

Show Report: Jersey Dog of the Year 2019 held on Saturday 15th February 2020 Obedience Judge David Moxon

I was delighted to be invited to officiate at this event and both my wife, Jackie, and I felt we were well looked after and enjoyed a very friendly atmosphere as well as the excellent hospitality. The only disappointment was the threat of storm Dennis had meant return Ferries had been cancelled so there were several no shows on the day. A pleasing part was to see ABC breeds, something as a sport I hope we can encourage. Also, thank you for a good size ring which did help provide a better test for the higher classes.

Thank you to Lindsay Bracegirdle for the tremendous ring stewarding. Five new rounds on the day and all competitors were sent in the right direction. Donelda Guy (for B) and Chris Cullen (for C) our scent decoys and to Helen Jones who managed an efficient scoreboard.

All those today were winners to be here and I will comment on each:

For Beginners, only two competed but both had clear stays. Beginner Dog of the Year was Remror DJ (DJ) owned by R Gillies, WSD, Lost $5\frac{1}{4}$. HW 2 on lead and $2\frac{1}{2}$ off lead. Mainly on the turns but handler was a bit quick off the mark for heel off lead. Clear retrieve and $\frac{3}{4}$ on recall, marginal of centre on present and $\frac{1}{2}$ for crooked finish. Nice handling.

Reserve Carmiably Magic Moment (Simba) owned by B Barette, Labrador. Not fully engaged for heel on lead (lost 5) with a few tight leads on the corners. For heel off lead did have a nose down moment (lost $4\frac{1}{2}$ in total). When brain clicked in for heel off lead the dog did hold an adequate position, even if not over close to the handler. Lost $\frac{1}{2}$ on the present for recall and $\frac{3}{4}$ on retrieve, again the present. Both finishes were good. Total $10\frac{3}{4}$.

For Novice, three competed but stays played a role here with only one dog completing both sit and down exercises.

Novice Dog of the Year was Tonkory Running Order (Riva) handled by C Cullen, Border Collie. Was second going into stays but only by $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mark. Heel free (lost 2) better than heel off (lost $3\frac{1}{2}$) mainly because handler was too quick of the mark at the start of heel on. If handler tightens up the turns the dogs will also do this. Likewise, handler moved feet as dog presented on recall, so marks were lost (2 lost in total). Lost 1 on retrieve again mainly on present. Total $8\frac{1}{2}$.

Reserve was Foxbarton Queen's Jester (Floyd) owned by R Harris, Border Collie. Lost 16 for break on the down. Lost 3 on both heel on and heel off lead. Watch the tight leads (on the early turns) and thereafter was a mix of wide on

the turns. Nice recall, marginally out on present (lost $\frac{1}{4}$). Retrieve, a little messy on the pick-up and hence some mouthing on return (lost 2). Total $2\frac{1}{4}$

3rd was Carmiably Indian Summer (Florrie) owned by C Sheppard, Labrador. Unfortunately, more than one shuffle forward on the sit stay and likewise on the down, so had to mark as the dog had moved from its start position. Lost 15 between the two stays. Heel on lead lost $4\frac{1}{2}$, Heel Off 5 - not fully with handler. Recall $\frac{1}{2}$ - off centre present, Retrieve, $1\frac{1}{2}$ which was mainly out and wide on present. $26\frac{1}{2}$ in total.

Class A had the closest competition including a run-off for runner up. All three competed Stays and Scent to provide scores on the board. That said it was scent that caused the run-off but these three, on a different day, could easily have been in a different order.

Class A Dog of the Year was Stardell Casca (Casca) owned by L Keeler, Border Collie. Lovely round and I was being picky on the heelwork which lost $1\frac{1}{2}$. A recall $\frac{1}{2}$ which was on pick-up - dog in front before correcting. Retrieve $\frac{3}{4}$, very slightly off centre but forward on the finish, which was the same for scent (lost $\frac{1}{4}$) but not so obvious. Total 3. Very well done.

Reserve was Reinglen Morning Star (Chyna) owned by R McFarlane, GSD. This dog had plenty of bounce which is where we had three markable jumps in the heelwork within the total of 3. A recall was clear. Retrieve 1 - watch the mouthing. Scent (lost $3\frac{1}{2}$) was achieved but a couple of blanks disturbed on the way. The retrieve in the runoff was better than first time around and the enthusiasm controlled enough to take the Reserve Dog of the Year for this class. Total $7\frac{1}{2}$

3rd Jasandor Runestone Tahro (Tahro) owned by J Bennett, GSD. Needed the extra command to settle early in the heelwork which was good handling but came with a penalty of 2 within the total of $4\frac{1}{2}$. A recall lost $2\frac{1}{2}$ which was on the pickup. I do not usually penalise for slow pick-up, but this was a lag rather than getting into position. Retrieve lost $\frac{1}{2}$ as crooked into the present (similar in the run-off) but Scent was clear. Total $7\frac{1}{2}$

Class B was unfortunately the opposite to A, but I do find that with this class, once you introduce sendaway, articles and a decoy in scent then the standard can be very mixed, even when you have a large entry. I will take some responsibility for the sendaway, which had a good run through from the front markers to the back, but I was being lenient in terms of how close they needed to be to the back marker, once through. All handlers had something positive. I do mark in halves for standard faults in heelwork, up until C, so consequently the B heelwork can look expensive. That said two broke down stays and unfortunately one of these also failed scent.

Class B Dog of the Year was Conorvean Bobbin Joan (Bobbin) owned by C Le Poidevin, Shetland Sheepdog. Heelwork lost 15½ but 4 was two extra commands. A little drift and lag at times especially on the about turns and coming out of these. Retrieve lost 2½ of which 2 was for anticipation. Sendaway 6½ of which 2 was for extra command for the down. Scent lost 1 being ½ on present and ½ on finish. Scent itself was lovely. Well done for getting through all the exercises. Total was 25½.

Reserve was Mybeards Hattie (Hattie) owned by V Dowding, Polish Lowland Sheepdog. I suspect this is a first for me to have had this breed in a class; so nice to see in B, and with character. A follow out on down stay was expensive. Heelwork, we had a couple of extra commands so total lost was 21 and not giving 100% attention. Retrieve, anticipation and then had a drop on return, lost 4. Sendaway, there was a good deviation, lost 7. The positive was a clear scent. Showed what they can do.

3rd was Canen Mo (Tuska) owned by M De La Haye, Border Collie. Looked good before Stays and Sent. Heelwork lost 9 on bits and pieces, Retrieve, lost 1 on the present¹; was slow but that was not marked. Sendaway 5 -just through markers but pick up nice.

Finally, Class C. The orange cones for the Sendaway worked a lot better than the plant pots for the B. It was still a case of the winner and reserve being able to complete the exercises with two faulting on scent and one on distance control. Scent was a pyramid pattern which I do not think was the issue. All completed stays.

Class C Dog of the Year was Foxbarton Black Queen (Rhia), owned by W Wright, Border Collie. Lost ½ on the finish for retrieve. Heelwork lost 6½ in total; clear positions on the move, 14 marks on the clicker (¼ each) and the other main fault was forward position in slow pace but was less noticeable in normal and fast. Sendaway was nice just wide on the final heelwork after the pick-up, where you lost 1. DC was clear. Scent lost 4 of which 2 was for anticipation. Lost 12 in total. Well done. A good score and worthy winner.

Reserve was Bartonview Humbug (Kip) owned by M Gibaut, Border Collie, who I understand is retiring after this event. I did have to mark the extra commands which made up a good part of the heelwork mark and two extras for the down position and one extra for the sit. Better to lose 2 than 6. Total lost was 26¾. Sendaway lost 7. Went to right of the marker and had a wide pick-up when returning which led to a delay in being in the heelwork position. Finished with lovely DC - clear. Scent 1½ picked and dropped before present. Well done.

3rd Patois Zeta (Skye) owned by M Martel, Border Collie. Heelwork was nice but did not pick up the positions one the move - or rather had their own interpretation. Stand was achieved but had moved forward somewhat before

halting. Sendaway, slightly to the right, pick up nice - lost 3. Retrieve lost ½ on present. DC - unfortunately came away with handler, consequently had to be judge as not completing the exercise from the start because handler had to take back to complete. Scent lost 4

4th Coriecollits Just For Two owned by R Harris, Border Collie. Not there day on scent. One missed position on DC and one missed position on the move. Care with your pick-up as you are turning to pick them up. I was marking 1 but could easily be seen as an extra command. Sendaway lost 3. Bang on the back marker but jump on pick up and forward on the finish with the heelwork. Moments of brilliance.

5th Jasandor Runestone Tahro (Tahro) owned by J Bennett, GSD. Extra command to send out on Retrieve, lost 4½ in total. Two missed positions on the move was 12 of the 19¼ lost for heelwork. Slow pace could have been tighter but fast pace was lovely and was able to use the ring. Sendaway; deviation and forward so lost 4 in total. DC two missed positions was 12. Unfortunate in Scent as the dog had the right cloth but dropped it so it was touching a blank, and consequently, having re-checked the other clothes, brought back the blank.

Thank you to all competitors for the relaxed atmosphere throughout the day.

David Moxon